

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

In re U.S. Patent Application of:

James F. CHEN *et al.*

Serial Number: 09/258,398

Filed: February 26, 1999

For: Multi-Access Virtual Private Network

Group Art Unit: 2785

Examiner: N. Wright

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Honorable Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is in response to the Official Action dated October 6, 1999. A petition for a three-month extension of time accompanies this response so that it is timely filed.

Kindly amend the application in accordance with the following particulars:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 18, and 31, as follows:

-1. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for carrying out communications over a multi-tier virtual private network, said network including a server and a plurality of client computers, the server and client computers each including means for transmitting data to and receiving data from an open network, wherein said means for transmitting data to and receiving data from an open network includes a lower set of communications drivers, said lower set of communications drivers being arranged to receive function calls and requests for service from an applications program in order to transmit and receive said data, comprising:

means for intercepting said function calls and requests for service sent by [an] said applications program [on one of said client computers] to [a] said lower level set of

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